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BENNY GOODMAN -- BACK AT CARNEGIE
(VOICED PIECED INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR:

AMERICAN JAZZ GREAT BENNY GOODMAN PLAYED TO A SELL-OUT AUDIENCE AT NEW YORK'S CARNEGIE HALL (TUESDAY NIGHT 1/17), A JAZZ FEST MARKING ANOTHER SOLD-OUT EVENING FORTY YEARS AGO -- GOODMAN'S FIRST CARNEGIE HALL CONCERT. LARRY FREUND REPORTS FROM NEW YORK:

NARR:

IT WAS A COLD JANUARY NIGHT IN NINETEEN THIRTY-EIGHT WHEN BENNY GOODMAN BROUGHT HIS CLARINET AND HIS BAND TO CARNEGIE HALL -- THAT HOME OF MUSICAL CLASSICS -- TO PLAY TO A PACKED AUDIENCE.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- GOODMAN EXCERPT FROM 1938 "SING SING SING" (0:32)

NARR:

ONE CRITIC IN THE AUDIENCE REPORTED THAT "THERE WAS QUIVERING EXCITEMENT IN THE AIR" THAT NIGHT, "AN ALMOST ELECTRICAL EFFECT," AS JAZZ WAS HEARD IN CARNEGIE HALL FOR THE FIRST TIME. THAT SAME CRITIC PREDICTED FOR HIS READERS THAT 'SWING' JAZZ OF THIS KIND WILL QUICKLY BE A THING OF THE PAST." THAT IS THE KIND OF FORECAST THAT MAKES CRITICS WINCE AND MUSICIANS SMILE.

BENNY GOODMAN -- NOW SIXTY-EIGHT -- THOUGHT LATE LAST SUMMER THAT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO CELEBRATE THAT NINETEEN THIRTY-EIGHT CONCERT. "I DON'T USUALLY THINK OF ANNIVERSARIES," HE TOLD A RECENT VISITOR, "BUT I SAID TO MY WIFE THAT WAITING FOR THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY MIGHT BE A BIT OPTIMISTIC." SO ON TUESDAY NIGHT -- COLD AGAIN -- GOODMAN BROUGHT HIS CLARINET AND HIS BAND -- INCLUDING VIBRAPHONIST LIONEL HAMPTON -- BACK

NARR: (CONT'D)

TO CARNEGIE HALL FOR A RETURN ENGAGEMENT. "FOR A LITTLE MORE THAN THREE HOURS," WRITES ONE REPORTER, "BENNY GOODMAN TURNED THE CLOCK BACK FORTY YEARS." WHEN THE GREYING BESPECTACLED GOODMAN WALKED ON THE CARNEGIE HALL STAGE, HE TOLD THE AUDIENCE OF NEARLY THREE THOUSAND JAZZ FANS -- "WELL, HERE WE ARE AGAIN. I HAVEN'T CHANGED MUCH, HE SAID, "HAVE YOU?" THE AUDIENCE WAS DELIGHTED. BUT, AS THE CRITIC FOR THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS WRITES, "THIS WAS NO SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY REPRISING OLD NUMBERS." THE AUDIENCE CALLED OUT FOR THE OLD FAMILIAR TUNES, BUT GOODMAN PLAYED A MIXTURE OF BOTH THE OLD AND THE NEW. AND THIS LED THE DAILY NEWS OBSERVER TO NOTE THAT "OVER THE YEARS, GOODMAN HAS MAINTAINED A MARVELOUS CLARINET TONE; HE HAS THAT SPECIAL GRACE AND TASTE THAT MAKES ONE MUSICIAN STAND ABOVE ANOTHER."

<u>TAPE: CUT TWO -- SECOND EXCERPT FROM 1938 "SING SING SING"</u>

<u>(1:50)</u>

NARR:

ONCE AGAIN JAZZ -- BENNY GOODMAN'S JAZZ -- WAS BACK IN CARNEGIE HALL. IF THE MUSIC WAS MORE THAN JUST AN ECHO OF THIS MEMORY OF NINETEEN THIRTY-EIGHT . . . WELL, FOR THE MOST OF THE AUDIENCE, SO MUCH THE BETTER.

RK/PBM